



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 10

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THURSDAY, 3RD APRIL 2025

CALENDAR

Friday, 4th April

Last Day for Term 1 – early dismissal 2:30pm

9:00am assembly for Students of the Term

OUT OF UNIFORM DAY – NO CHARGE

Jump Rope for Heart – Jump Off Day

PIZZA DAY – no other food items available except iced treats

Tuesday, 22nd April

First Day for Term 2

Thursday, 24th April

Payment due for Year 3/4 Camp

Friday, 25th April

ANZAC Day Public Holiday

Thursday, 8th May

Year 3/4 Camp Departs

Friday, 9th May

Year 3/4 Camp Returns

School Organisation

Dear Big Hill Community!

Term 1 is almost complete as Week 10 draws near an end. All that is left is our Friday celebrations to end the term with a bang!

OUT OF UNIFORM TOMORROW – NO CHARGE

Tomorrow our students can come to school out of uniform. This is free, as we are already fundraising for JUMP ROPE FOR HEART. When sending your child to school tomorrow please ensure they have footwear that is suitable for skipping and sports... so best to wear sneakers/runners. Also make sure clothing is SunSmart – tops/dresses must have sleeves and a hat must be worn.

STUDENT AWARDS CEREMONY TOMORROW!

Congratulations to our winning students who are announced in today's newsletter. Tomorrow we will present awards to these students at 9:00am in our undercover area. Parents / families are invited to come along and enjoy. Photo opportunities will be provided too. We will present awards in categories, meaning that all EXCELLENCE IN ENGLISH awards Foundation – Year 6 will be presented at once, then we will move to the next category, eg. EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS and so forth.

LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM

Life Skills wound up today for our First Steps, Junior and Middle Units. It was enjoyed by our students, and we will explore the possibility of it returning in 2026. A big thank you to Dean for coordinating Life Skills this year.

EASTER RAFFLE

Our raffle was drawn today. Congratulations to those lucky enough to be drawn out 😊. A big thank you to all who donated, sold tickets etc, and to our P&F and Office for organising and coordinating the fundraiser.

40 ZONES (REPEAT)

You will be aware that our school zones reduce to 40kph in key times before and after school near Harvey Norman and to 60kph out the front of our school. To help drivers this is clearly communicated by flashing speed limits alerting drivers to adjust to the speed limit. As community members please do your bit to stick to these limits and report those who do not to the Police directly.

PARKING AND PATHS (REPEAT)

Whilst I acknowledge parking is tricky at times, I need to remind all drivers to ensure they park in designated areas and never use the footpath as a road to exit. There have been reports of families doing this and it concerns me as the paths are there for bikes, scooters and pedestrians... not cars. If you have been using the path as a road, please cease doing this as it is dangerous.

If you notice drivers doing the wrong thing on paths and around the school please report directly to the Police, as the school cannot enforce the law beyond the gates of our school, however we are happy to remind everyone of the correct behaviours to help keep our children safe.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART AND MULTIAGE FUN TOMORROW!

Tomorrow we will have our multiage rotations occurring from 11:30am and our Jump-Off for JUMP ROPE FOR HEART at 12:30pm. Looking forward to seeing all of our students having fun in mixed groupings tomorrow... culminating in a whole-school JUMP OFF.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos were taken on Monday and the morning ran smoothly. If you forgot to order, you still can via Compass, but there may be a late fee.

STAFFING

Nick Reid remained on sick leave until today and was covered by Lauren Ray during this time. Amy Mountjoy continued her teaching rounds and as a result, MacqLit was paused for our Year 3 – 6's in the program. This will continue for the first two weeks of Term 2. Caleb Barras has been unwell for most of the week with Clare Grant pausing her MiniLit program to cover Caleb's role and Keely Farnell working today. We welcome Caleb back tomorrow. Wendy Hicks continued Long Service Leave and her class has been taught by Giovanna Totta. Jayden Sheean was away yesterday and was replaced by Leisha Morrison – it was lovely to have Leisha back on the school as she is currently on Family Leave. Finally, I'm in Melbourne today for more ACADEMY FACILITATOR TRAINING but will return tomorrow to see the end of the term out.

ANNETTE CLEMENTS PARENT WORKSHOP

We had a modest number of parents attend Monday's parent workshop with Annette Clements. It was great to see 8 families represented. Unfortunately, many families booked and didn't show up which was a little disappointing for the presenter who had prepared for the number of people registered. Annette returns next term on Wednesday, 23rd April, presenting ANXIETY AND WORRY IN CHILDREN. This will run at 2:00pm in our Multipurpose Room and bookings are made through Compass. We will endeavour to remind those who register of the event to avoid forgetting about it but do encourage you to book and set a reminder in your phone, so you don't miss it. We heard positive reviews from Monday's session, so come along if you have concerns about your child's mental health needs. Thanks to Dean White for organising this as part of his MENTAL HEALTH in PRIMARY SCHOOLS role.

MOBILE PHONE / SMART WATCH BANS

Mobile phones and communication devices (even if disabled) are banned from schools in Victoria. If your child comes to school with a phone / device (including Smart Watches), it is switched off before entering the grounds and handed to the Office where it is stored safely for the day. Phones / devices are to be collected at the end of the day and are not switched on until leaving the grounds or stepping off the bus. Please remind your child if bringing a phone / device to school that it is switched off before arrival on school grounds OR before stepping onto the bus – the same arrangement. Thanks for your support enforcing this important rule.

PIZZA DAY

Orders for pizza have now closed to enable us to order correct amounts of pizza. If you forgot to order you will need to make other arrangements for lunch tomorrow.

EARLY DISMISSAL TOMORROW AT 2:30PM – OFFICE CLOSES AT 3:00PM

Tomorrow will see the school holidays commencing at 2:30pm. This is an earlier dismissal in line with schools across the state, so families are reminded to pick up earlier or book into TheirCare, our OSHC provider. The Office will close at 3:00pm for the holidays also, so please ensure you have contacted the school prior to 3:00pm if you have anything important to discuss or organise. Both buses will operate at 2:30pm, so please adjust your pick up times from your bus stop accordingly.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

With holidays commencing tomorrow, they will run for the next two weeks and we won't resume for Term 2 until Tuesday the 22nd of April at 9am, as the Monday is the Easter Monday holiday. Please note that Week 1 of Term 2 is only 3 days (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) – as the Friday is the ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY. It is school as normal on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of Week 1 though, so please send your child to school as regular classes will be in operation.

HOLIDAY SECURITY

Over the school holiday period we will have staff in and out, however, the majority of the holidays will mean there are no staff onsite. Due to this, security risks emerge with unwanted visitors sometimes passing through the grounds or lingering longer. To avoid any damage or crime, please report any suspicious behaviour witnessed immediately to the Police by calling 000. Together we have many eyes that can keep our school and resources safe 😊.

NEW CARPET, NEW FACELIFT

Over the break we will be putting new carpet into our two FIRST STEPS CLASSES. In addition to this the old school building and music room will be re-plastered... with this work taking up much of the holidays. With carpet layers and plasterers onsite over the holidays, there will be some tradies present. We look forward to returning next term to some spruced-up spaces. Soon we will be painting the music room and old school building – do you know anyone who could help with this? Any recommendations? Please call the Office to advise 😊.

LOST PROPERTY

We have so much lost property in the foyer, with very few families or children coming to look for lost items. Many items are winter jackets, fleecy zip-ups etc and would come in handy for next term. They need a good home, so help yourself! **Come and grab what you want tomorrow – we will have the clothing out at the awards ceremony** also... so please do us a favour and take some things home that will be used. It's just such a waste of resources and I'm sure families could do with some uniform top-ups at home 😊.

ANZAC DAY BADGES

We have an assortment of badges (\$2 to \$5), one keyring design (\$4), one wrist band design (\$3), and one pen design (\$5) now available to purchase from the Office.

YEAR 3/4 CAMP

The final consent & medical information forms are on Compass for parents to complete. The balance to pay is \$145. Due to the SSB, we haven't set up a payment plan, but if any families would like one, please let the Office know and we can arrange one for you. Thank you.

MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT

With thanks to McKerns and sponsors for our beautiful selection of fruit this week.

Here are Parker and Logan with their peach and pear 😊.



BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Makenzie B.

With a day of celebration and fun ahead, the holidays are almost here.

May I take this time to wish you all a safe and happy time with loved ones over the break. If you celebrate Easter, Happy Easter! If you don't – enjoy the time with your children close 😊

Travel presents risks during busy times, so please take care and return safely next term.

My thanks to our hard-working students and staff for their efforts in Term 1... and to you for supporting at home. It really makes a difference.

I'll see you next term 😊

2025 GRADE 6 INFORMATION EVENING MONDAY 5TH MAY

Grade 6 Information Sessions at the following
Bendigo Secondary Colleges



6.00pm - 7.30pm
Location: Year 7 Building
(B1 and B7)

5443 4522
bse.vic.edu.au



6.00pm - 7.30pm
Location: College Gymnasium

5447 7722
crusoecollege.vic.edu.au



6.00pm - 7.30pm
Location: Global Learning Centre

5443 2133
weeroona.vic.edu.au



6.00pm - 7.30pm
Location: Performing Arts Centre

5446 8099
eaglehawk.vic.edu.au



Matthew Pearce, Principal

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

The Dark Side of Gaming: When the Fun Becomes a Problem

Aussies love a good game, whether it's backyard cricket, a friendly footy match, or a digital showdown in Fortnite, Minecraft, or Roblox. But when screen time starts creeping up like a sneaky magpie in spring, it's time to take a closer look.

Gaming can be great! It can improve problem-solving, teamwork, and hand-eye coordination. But too much of a good thing can turn into a slippery dip leading to unhealthy habits.

So, how do you know when gaming is no longer just fun and games?

🔥 Signs Your Child (or You!) Might Be Gaming Too Much

✓ The "One More Game" Syndrome:

Five minutes turns into five hours, and suddenly it's midnight on a school night.

✓ Mood Swings That Rival a Melbourne Weather Forecast:

Anger, frustration, or full-blown meltdowns when asked to log off.

✓ The Houdini Effect:

Avoiding family meals, skipping homework, or sneaking devices to keep playing.

✓ Real Life Takes a Backseat:

Less interest in sports, hobbies, or hanging out with mates.

✓ Late-Night Gaming Sessions:

Sleep patterns that make a nocturnal possum look like an early riser.

🎯 How to Find a Healthy Balance

👇 Set Screen Time Limits:

Use parental controls, timers, or good ol' fashioned rules.

"Game's off after dinner" should mean **game's off after dinner**, not "just one more round."

👁️ Keep Gaming in Shared Spaces:

If the console is in the lounge room, it's easier to monitor.

🏡 Encourage Other Activities:

Sport, reading, or even a weekend camping trip (yes, outside!).

💬 Talk About Online Safety:

Not everyone online is who they say they are. Remind kids that if a "new mate" is asking for personal details, it's time to hit block and report.

💡 Model Good Habits:

If parents are doom-scrolling or binging Netflix every night, kids will take notes!

What is doom scrolling, I hear you ask?

Doomscrolling (or **doomsurfing**) is the habit of continuously scrolling through negative or distressing news and social media, even though it makes you feel anxious or overwhelmed. It's like falling into a digital black hole of bad news. Whether it's global disasters, social media drama, or endless online arguments, people often doomscroll late at night, losing track of time and feeding their stress instead of winding down.

It's especially common during uncertain times (like pandemics or natural disasters) when people feel the need to stay informed but end up feeling worse.

🚦 When to Take Action

If gaming is affecting school, friendships, or mental health, it might be time to pause and reset. Chat with a teacher, counsellor, or Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800) for support.

🎮 Final Thought

Gaming should be like a Tim Tam, enjoyed in moderation, not devoured in one sitting. Keep it fun, keep it balanced, and make sure real life is just as exciting as the virtual one!

School holidays can be a challenge with all that extra free time, and as we approach our first term break, it's a great time to set some healthy gaming habits. While holidays are a chance to relax, let's make sure they don't turn into a non-stop gaming marathon!

Encourage outdoor activities, family time, and a mix of screen and non-screen fun. After all, there's more to the holidays than just levelling up in a game, it's also about levelling up in real life.

Safe travels on the internet highway, where your data's the passenger, and you're the navigator!

Kate Dole

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART



MULTI AGE ROTATION & JUMP OFF DAY

TOMORROW we will conduct our **Jump Off** to complete the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser. Please make sure you finalise all donations as soon as possible.

The process for the activities will begin with a whole school Multi age tabloid sports rotation at 11:30am where students will compete in a variety of fun activities conducted by our Year 6 students.

This will be followed by the **Jump Off** beginning around 12:30pm where each unit will compete to see who can last the longest jumping rope. Should be great fun for all!!

COMMUNITY NEWS



**LEARN TO DRIVE
AGE 5.
THERE'S GOLF FOR THAT.**

**Belvoir Park Golf Club
FREE GIRLS ONLY PROGRAM**
Come and join us for a FREE Come and Try Girls Only Program. Delivered in small groups and focus on giving participants plenty of opportunities to explore skills and to build confidence to hit the golf course. No experience or Equipment required.

Date and Time: Tuesday 15th April
2025 11am-11:45am
Cost: FREE
Registration:
<https://tinyurl.com/fxc6z2fw> or via the QR code
Enquiries: Dave Griffin – 0407 422 845



Scan to find a program.



golf.org.au/mygolf



Marist College Bendigo

Key enrolment dates for 2026

Enrolments Open Tuesday 22 April, 2025	9:00am
Explore Marist Evening College Open Night - Tuesday 29 April, 2025	4:00pm to 6:00pm
Enrolments Close Friday 23 May, 2025	3:00pm
Principal Learning Walks Bookings essential www.marist.vic.edu.au	9:15am
Year 7 Transition Day Tuesday 6 May, 2025 Bookings essential www.marist.vic.edu.au	9:30am to 2:30pm

For any enrolment enquiries please email Mrs Carmel Fitt enrol@marist.vic.edu.au

APRIL 14, 15 & 16

EASTER SOCCER PROGRAM

COACH & DIRECTOR:
OSCAR MAGRIÑA

A LEVEL COACH

SPANISH FEDERATION LICENSED

QUALIFIED TEACHER

+20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

0450043150
MAGRISOC@ICLOUD.COM

SPONSORED BY:

PLAYERS AGED:

- * 6 TO 14yo
- 9AM TO 3PM
- SPANISH METHOD
- POSITIVE MINDSET
- DAILY PRIZES

5 MURDOCK ST., CALIFORNIA GULLY VIC 3556

INFO & BOOKINGS



Term 2, 2025
Loddon Mallee
Regional Parenting

What's On: Term 2

All programs are delivered by our qualified and passionate facilitators.

Multi-Session Programs

Tuning in to Kids | 6 Sessions, Tuesdays

Helping parents and carers build their skills to help their children develop emotional intelligence and manage their emotions, using 'emotion coaching'.

FREE | Tuesdays, 29 April - 10 June | 10.30am - 12.30pm
CatholicCare Victoria, 176 - 178 McCrae St, Bendigo



Parenting Together | 2 Sessions, Wednesdays

Designed for couples who are parenting together, building strength and connection in the adult relationship before exploring new ways to manage parenting challenges together.

FREE | Wednesdays, 30 April & 7 May | 7pm - 9pm
Online, via Teams



Tuning in to Teens | 6 Sessions, Thursdays

Helping parents and carers to build strong relationships and ensure positive interactions with their teenagers.

FREE | Thursdays, 1 May - 12 June | 10am - 12pm
Online, via Teams



Our Kids

This post-separation program helps separated families who have experienced high parental conflict, difficulty in managing children's arrangements, or who want to gain new skills and insights to improve the co-parenting relationship.

\$150 (\$75 Concession)

Tuesdays, 13 May - 17 June | 6pm - 8pm
Online, via Teams



Fridays, 15 May - 19 June | 12.30pm - 2.30pm
CatholicCare Victoria, 176 - 178 McCrae St, Bendigo

Keep informed on our programs across Victoria at www.catholiccarevic.org.au
(03) 5438 1300 | 176 - 178 McCrae Street, Bendigo VIC 3550



Term 2, 2025
Loddon Mallee
Regional Parenting

Single-Session Workshops

Connecting with Kids

Learn more about the children's brain and emotional development to effectively guide their behaviour.

FREE
Monday, 5 May | 1.30pm - 3pm
Bendigo Library, 259 Hargreaves St, Bendigo



Knowing Your Teen

Exploring strategies that focus on the strengths of teenage development and build a positive relationship with them, even during challenging times.

FREE
Monday, 12 May | 9.15am - 10.45am
Boort Resource Info Centre



Tuning in to Kids/ Teens Booster Session

Designed for any past 'Tuning in to Kids' or 'Tuning in to Teens' participants to revisit emotion coaching and be reminded of how we can stay tuned in to our children's emotions.

FREE
Monday, 23 June | 10am - 11.30am
Online, via Teams



Kids and Worry

Practical tools to help parents and carers assist their children to manage their worries and anxieties.

FREE
Tuesday, 24 June | 9am - 11am
California Gully Primary School
4/14 Staley St, California Gully VIC 3556



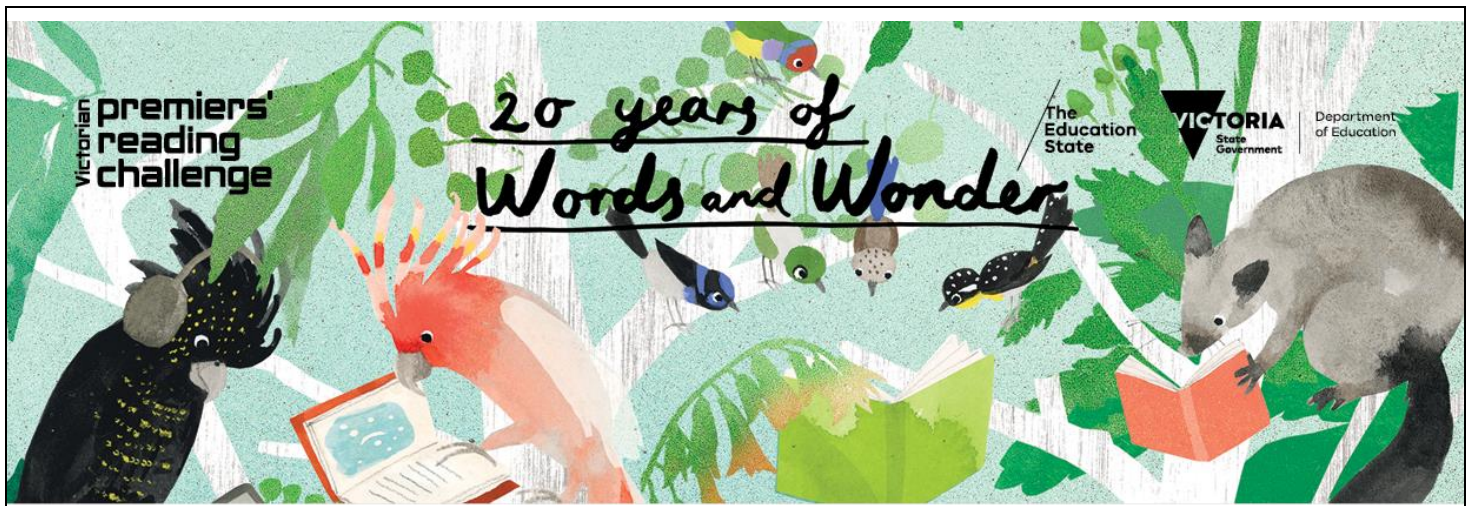
Registrations are essential for all of our programs and workshops, places are limited.

Please call us if you have questions on (03) 5438 1300 or email bendigo.reception@catholiccarevic.org.au



Register:
www.catholiccarevic.org.au/workshops

Keep informed on our programs across Victoria at www.catholiccarevic.org.au
(03) 5438 1300 | 176 - 178 McCrae Street, Bendigo VIC 3550



Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open, and Big Hill PS is excited to be taking part!

The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to Year 10 and aims to help young readers develop a lifelong love of reading.

It is not a competition; it is a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by Friday, 5th September 2025. Children from Foundation to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 15 books.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and former Premiers.

This year, the Challenge is celebrating its 20th anniversary with the theme '20 years of words and wonder' and a year of special activities. For details, follow the [Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge Facebook](#)

Since it began in 2005, more than 4.5 million young readers have taken part and together read more than 63 million books!

To read the Premier's letter to parents, view the booklist and for more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, visit www.vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge

Please contact your classroom teacher for login details. You can also contact our school's Challenge coordinators at emma.tuckwell@education.vic.gov.au, jennifer.nicholls2@education.vic.gov.au, ainsley.stanley@education.vic.gov.au

Happy reading!

STUDENT AWARDS – TERM 1, 2025

To be presented at the 9:00am assembly, tomorrow, Friday, 4th April – all welcome 😊

Outstanding Achievement in English:

FSJ:	Chloe V	FSN:	Lucy M		
JC:	Ava M	JJ:	Mia M		
ME/D:	Jake F	MP:	Emma P	MW/A:	Celeste N
SK:	Abigail H	SA/R:	Mica B	SB:	Isabella G

Outstanding Achievement in Mathematics:

FSJ:	Rylan E	FSN:	Ollie Q		
JC:	Henry M	JJ:	Franklin B		
ME/D:	Conna B	MP:	Blake M	MW/A:	Ezra B
SK:	Mannix A	SA/R:	Grace VS	SB:	Kelson G

Endeavour Award in English:

FSJ:	Oliver T	FSN:	Mannie C		
JC:	Imahni V	JJ:	Harry B		
ME/D:	Harmony N	MP:	Hunter C	MW/A:	Piper C
SK:	Christopher W	SA/R:	Harper O	SB:	Nikirra S

Endeavour Award in Mathematics:

FSJ:	Abigail v	FSN:	Everly F		
JC:	Maci M	JJ:	Teddy R		
ME/D:	Harry E	MP:	Archer B	MW/A:	Kayden M
SK:	Evelynne K	SA/R:	Benji S	SB:	Macy F

Outstanding Display of School Values:

FSJ:	Levi D	FSN:	Willow S		
JC:	Poppet B	JJ:	Lily C		
ME/D:	Edward M	MP:	Elisabeth A	MW/A:	Logan H
SK:	Eden-Rose M	SA/R:	Amber L	SB:	Jobe D

Principal's Award:

FSJ:	Jack B	FSN:	Huxley T		
JC:	Otis E	JJ:	Harper W		
ME/D:	Minuli S	MP:	Hudson W	MW/A:	Hannah G
SK:	Harry R	SA/R:	Oli M	SB:	Bonnie S

Outstanding Achievement in *Art*:

FSJ:	Cohen B	FSN:	Charlotte Q		
JC:	Paige A	JJ:	Elena T		
ME/D:	Marlee M	MP:	Anna S	MW/A:	Levi S
SK:	Dante D	SA/R:	Makenzie B	SB:	Mila M

Outstanding Achievement in **MUSIC**:

FSJ:	Levi D	FSN:	Poppy H		
JC:	Harvey B	JJ:	Mila C		
ME/D:	Oscar A	MP:	Malachi B	MW/A:	Sienna D
SK:	Abbi-Rose L	SA/R:	Avery F	SB:	Ella M

Outstanding Achievement in Chinese:

FSJ:	Phoebe I	FSN:	Charlotte S		
JC:	Sophie H	JJ:	Kelahni K		
ME/D:	Jade L	MP:	Cooper M	MW/A:	Logan H
SK:	Ryan W	SA/R:	Jacob S	SB:	Dexter L

OUR WEEKLY FREE FRESH FRUIT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:

 mckern steel™
foundation



fresh
fruit
friday



Delivering
10,000kg of
fresh fruit to
Bendigo school
children **WEEKLY**



THANK YOU TO MCKERN STEEL FOUNDATION & SPONSORS

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO BE A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL PROGRAM 😊